

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Bridging People and Countries: EU brings real changes to the border communities in Armenia and Georgia

June 7, 2017 – Successful achievements of cross-border cooperation between Armenia and Georgia will be in focus of the Closing Conference of Armenia – Georgia Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme to be held in Gyumri, Armenia, on June 16, 2017, at Gyumri Technology Centre.

The Closing Conference “*Impact on Regional Sustainable Development and Cross-Border Cooperation*” will bring together representatives of national, regional and local authorities, civil society organisations and opinion leaders, international donors and partners, business and media circles of Armenia and Georgia, as well as cross-border projects’ teams from the participating regions.

Welcome addresses will be delivered by **Mr Vache Terteryan**, First Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Development of Armenia, Chairman of JDMC Delegation of Armenia, **Mr Irakli Matkava**, First Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, Chairman of JDMC Delegation of Georgia and **Mr Hoa-Binh Adjemian**, Head of Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

Armenian – Georgian cooperation within the EaPTC Programme has significantly improved mutual understanding by involving local communities of the border regions in a multi-cultural dialogue, breaking stereotypes and building trust amongst the neighbouring communities, fostering reliable business relations and promoting sustainable regional development. Successful experience and best practices of the cross-border projects, which established a solid ground for building up friendly relations between Armenians and Georgians, are expected to be disseminated and replicated in other regions of both countries.

Media representative are invited to take part in the official opening of Armenia – Georgia Grant Projects Exhibition, at 12:00 p.m., and the Press-conference at 13:00 p.m. will be held on June 16, 2017 in Gyumri Technology Centre.

Prior accreditation of journalists is required and will be open until June 15th, 2017, 17:00 at: emma.sargsyan@eaptc.eu, mob:+374 55 515700. All expenses related to participation of media representatives in the event (including transportation and meals) will be covered by the organizers. For more details on organisational issues please contact: Ms. Emma Sargsyan, emma.sargsyan@eaptc.eu, mob:+374 55 515700 in Armenia and Ms. Lana Ghvinjilia, lane.ghvinjilia@gmail.com, +995 577 237 740 in Georgia

Background: the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme’s (EaPTC Support Programme) goal is to create a favourable environment for territorial cooperation programmes along the borders of Moldova – Ukraine, Armenia – Georgia, Azerbaijan – Georgia and Belarus – Ukraine with due regard to specifics of each border area. It is as well aimed at strengthening the capacity of local and regional state and non-state actors to jointly develop and implement cross-border projects. The overall EU contribution to EaPTC is 12.5 million EUR. The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a European Union initiative directed at six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiative aims at closer relations between the EU and the Eastern partners, deepening their political co-operation and economic integration.

The EU-funded Territorial Cooperation Programme Armenia – Georgia has been in operation since September 2015 to strengthen cross-border contacts between local authorities, communities and civil society organisations to find joint solutions to common social and economic development challenges in Lori, Shirak, Tavush marzes of Armenia together with Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe – Javakheti regions of Georgia. The Programme comprised altogether 9 joint cross-border projects involving Armenian and Georgian partners and focused on local economic development, environment protection and people-to-people contacts in culture, education and sports. The EU contribution to the Armenia – Georgia territorial cooperation was 1.35 million Euro.

For additional information please contact Ms Tatiana Derevyankina, EaPTC Communication Expert at: tatiana.derevyankina@eaptc.eu
<http://www.eaptc.eu>; <https://www.facebook.com/eaptc.eu>; https://twitter.com/EaP_TC

